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been well attended, the smallest number of persons present at any meeting being eleven, and the largest seventeen. The scientific communications have been of interest and of practical value in the advancement of entomology.

At the annual meeting, held December 17th, the following were elected officers to serve during the coming year:—

<i>Director,</i>	. . . . .	George H. Horn.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	. . . . .	C. S. Welles.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	. . . . .	C. T. Cresson.
<i>Conservator and Recorder,</i>	. . . . .	Henry Skinner.
<i>Secretary,</i>	. . . . .	W. J. Fox.
<i>Publication Committee,</i>	. . . . .	{ C. W. Johnson.
		{ J. H. Ridings.

HENRY SKINNER,

*Recorder.*

## REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION.

The Director of the Botanical Section respectfully reports that this department of the Academy is in a prosperous condition. It is free from debt, and has a small surplus in its treasury. Meetings have been held regularly at stated times when many matters of importance to botanical science were brought forward and discussed.

The progress and needs of the herbarium are well set forth in the statement of the Conservator, Mr. Stewardson Brown, which is submitted as a part of this report. It is hoped that the Redfield Memorial Herbarium Fund, efforts to enlarge which from outside sources have been held in abeyance the past year, may soon be increased. The income from this should be immediately available to aid in securing additional collections, while the principal sum is growing so as to secure the essential services of a Curator. The voluntary labors of Messrs. Crawford, Beringer, Brown and Meehan, in arranging the herbarium and preparing the specimens for fastening down, have been continuous the past two years. It will take some five or six years, at the same rate of proceeding, to complete the task, even if no additions were made to the collection. It is a question whether it is wise to depend greatly on this assistance, and it is earnestly

hoped that the Redfield Herbarium Memorial Fund may secure the active interest of the Academy.

The officers for the ensuing year are:—

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Thomas Meehan.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Charles E. Smith.
<i>Conservator and Treasurer,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Stewardson Brown.
<i>Recorder,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Chas. Schäffer, M. D.
<i>Corresponding Secretary,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Jos. Crawford.
						THOMAS MEEHAN,
						<i>Director.</i>

In presenting this report for the year your Conservator is glad to be able to announce that the work of permanently mounting the general herbarium has been carried on steadily, and is completed nearly to the end of the *Compositæ*, which should be a matter of congratulation to all those interested in this very important work.

Such an advance has been made possible through the untiring efforts of the Director of the Section, Mr. Thomas Meehan, who has devoted a large amount of his time to the work during the past year.

In this connection the Conservator wishes to acknowledge the services of the Assistant in the herbarium, Mrs. E. F. Hochgesang, who has rendered most valuable aid in mounting and redistributing the plants, fully ten thousand sheets having been handled during the year.

In additions this year has not been behind former ones, as 2,450 species and varieties have been added to the herbarium, of which 803 are lower Cryptogams and 1,647 Phanerogams and Ferns. They are distributed as follows: North America, 1,500; Tropical America, 299; Asia, 241; Australia and Polynesia, 410—adding about 600 species new to the collection.

Among these may be specially mentioned the following: The unique collection of Myxomycetes, forming the herbarium of the late Dr. George A. Rex, comprising some 400 species, and presented to the Academy by his sister; 500 species of the North American Grasses from the United States Department of Agriculture, through Prof. F. Lamson Scribner; 150 species of Alaskan and Siberian Plants from Dr. Benj. Sharp; 90 species of Jamaica Ferns from U. C. Smith; Centuries 34 and 35 of North American Fungi from Dr. J. B. Ellis; 172 species and varieties of *Sphagna Boreali-Americana Exsiccata* from Mr. George F. Eaton; 375 species of Hawaiian

Island plants, collected in 1895 by Mr. A. A. Heller, and purchased for the herbarium; 209 species of Mexican Plants, collected by Prof. G. C. Pringle, and purchased for the herbarium; and 241 species of Asia Minor Plants, collected by Prof. Bornmüller, and purchased for the herbarium.

The attention of the Academy is respectfully called to the fact that the 825 species purchased during the past year, were paid for, not from the funds of the Section, but entirely by two of its members. Many very desirable collections were declined on account of the lack of funds; this is particularly to be regretted as regards the plants of our own country, in which we are in many cases very deficient.

The creation of a fund for the purchase of such collections is immediately desirable.

Since the last report the Academy has placed at the disposal of the Section two rooms formerly occupied by the Department of Entomology. The one on the gallery floor has been partially fitted up as a work-room.

The room on the library floor, which it is designed to use for additional herbarium space, has not as yet been occupied to any extent, owing to the lack of funds for furnishing. Additional cases for the accommodation of the herbarium are, however, an absolute necessity, as the present cases are crowded to an extent that is damaging to the specimens; it is therefore earnestly hoped, that before the close of the next year, this most pressing need will have been supplied.

Respectfully submitted,

STEWARTSON BROWN,  
*Conservator.*

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#### REPORT OF THE MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SECTION.

Ten meetings of the Section have been held during the year, with an average attendance of ten members. A notable addition to the facilities of the Section has been the laboratory erected on the first floor of the Museum by contributions from the Section and its individual members and from the Academy. This removes a serious difficulty under which we have labored, and cannot fail to facilitate its work.